CLAIMS

1. A method for operating a magnetic storage media drive to perform write operations upon removable serially accessible magnetic storage media in an overwrite protected mode, the method comprising:

   receiving a write request and associated write data;

   determining if a magnetic storage medium is overwrite protected; and

   if the storage medium is overwrite protected

   writing the write data to the storage medium followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data,

   allowing write operations to the storage medium after previously written data, and

   preventing write operations to the storage medium prior to a previous EOD marker.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected, further comprising locating the last EOD marker on the storage medium, and appending the write data after previously written data.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected and no EOD marker is present, further comprising locating a beginning of data indicator on the storage medium, and appending the write data after the beginning of data indicator.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the storage medium is not overwrite protected, writing the write data pursuant to the write request.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising locating a portion of the storage medium before a last EOD marker, forwarding to the last EOD marker, and appending the write data after the last EOD marker.

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising, if the storage medium is overwrite protected, formatting the storage medium to be recognized as overwrite protected.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the drive determines if the cartridge is overwrite protected based on the formatting of the storage medium.

11. The method of claim 1, further including preventing the drive from erasing previously written data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the write data overwrites a last EOD marker.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the magnetic storage medium includes a magnetic storage tape.

14. A method for operating a magnetic storage media drive to perform write operations upon removable serially accessible magnetic storage media, the method comprising:

    loading a magnetic storage medium into a magnetic storage media drive;

    determining if the magnetic storage medium is an overwrite protected storage medium;

if overwrite protected, initializing the storage medium in an overwrite protected mode, wherein the overwrite protected mode prevents the media drive from writing over previously written data and allows for write append operations; and

writing write data to the storage medium followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein a subsequent writing operation in the overwrite protected mode includes locating the EOD marker on the storage medium and appending the write data after the previously written write data.

16. The method of claim 14, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

17. The method of claim 14, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

18. The method of claim 14, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

19. The method of claim 14, further comprising preventing the drive from erasing previously written write data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.

20. A magnetic storage media drive system configured to perform operations to write data to magnetic storage media in an overwrite protected mode where previously stored data is preserved, the operations comprising:

receiving a write request and associated write data from a host;

determining if a storage medium is overwrite protected; and

if the storage medium is overwrite protected

writing the write data to the storage medium followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data,

allowing write operations to the storage medium after previously written data, and

preventing write operations prior to an EOD marker.

21. The system of claim 20, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected, further comprising locating a last EOD marker on the storage medium, and appending the write data after previously written data.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected and no EOD marker is present, further comprising locating a beginning of data indicator on the storage medium, and appending the write data after the beginning of data indicator.

23. The system of claim 20, further comprising, if the storage medium is not overwrite protected, writing the write data pursuant to the write request.

24. The system of claim 20, further including locating a portion of the storage medium before a last EOD marker, forwarding to the last EOD marker, and appending the write data after the last EOD marker.

25. The system of claim 20, further comprising formatting the storage medium to be recognized as overwrite protected.

26. The system of claim 20, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

27. The system of claim 20, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

28. The system of claim 20, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

29. The system of claim 20, wherein the drive determines if the cartridge is overwrite protected based on the formatting of the storage medium.

30. The system of claim 20, further including preventing the drive from erasing previously written data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.

31. A computer readable storage medium containing computer executable code for operating a magnetic storage drive to conduct write operations upon magnetic storage media in an overwrite protected mode by instructing the magnetic storage drive to operate as follows in response to receiving a write request and associated write data:
    determine if a storage medium is overwrite protected; and
    if the storage medium is overwrite protected
        write the write data to the storage medium followed by an EOD marker associated with the end of the write data,
        allow write operations to the storage medium after previously written data, and
        prevent writing operations to the storage medium prior to an EOD marker associated with the end of previous write data.

32. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected, further comprising locating a last EOD marker on the storage medium, and appending the write data after previously written data.

33. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein if the storage medium is overwrite protected and an EOD marker is not present, further comprising locating a beginning of data indicator on the storage medium, and appending the write data after the beginning of data indicator.

34. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising, if the storage medium is not overwrite protected, writing the write data per the write request.

35. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising locating a portion of the storage medium before a last EOD marker, forwarding to the last EOD marker, and appending the write data after the last EOD marker.

36. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising formatting the storage medium to be recognized as overwrite protected.

37. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a physical feature associated with the storage medium.

38. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on a software command.

39. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the media drive determines if the storage medium is overwrite protected based on drive level processing.

40. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, wherein the drive determines if the cartridge is overwrite protected based on the formatting of the storage medium.

41. The computer readable storage medium of claim 31, further comprising preventing the drive from erasing previously written data stored on the storage medium if the storage medium is overwrite protected.